THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) As per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 a mining lease can be given only to a company as defined in Sub-section 1 of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

मध्य प्रदेश के रायपुर जिले के मैनपुर और देवभोग क्षेत्र में हीरे एवं ऐलैक्जैन्ड्राइट पाये जानेकी संभावना

2866. **श्री राघवजी** : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के रायपुर जिले के मैनपुर और देवभोग क्षेत्र में हीरे एवं एलैक्जैन्ड्राइट पाये जाने की संभावना है ;

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने उक्त क्षेत्रों से हीरे एवं ऐलैक्जैन्ड्राइट के उत्खनन हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजे हैं यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि राज्य सरकार ने खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम और राष्ट्रीय खनिज विकास निगम द्वारा किये गये उत्खनन के प्रस्तावों की सिफारिश नहीं की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने किस एजेंसी को उत्खनन का कार्य सौंपने का निर्णय लिया है और उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव): (क) से (घ) रायपुर जिले के मैनपुर और देवभोग क्षेत्रों में हीरे और ऐलैक्जैन्ड्राइट पाए जाने की सूचना मिली है । मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने इन खनिजों के लिए निम्न पार्टियों हेतु पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस की मंजूरी देने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की पूर्व अनुमति मांगी है :—

(1) मैसर्स डी०बीयर्स (इंडिया) प्रोस्पेक्टिंग लि०;

(2) मैसर्स सी० आर० ए०; और

(3) मैसर्स ए० एम० आई० एल०

राज्य सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि यह मामला न्यायाधीन है और जबलपुर के उच्च न्यायालय के समक्ष लंबित है ।

Constitution of study group for gold mining

2867. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute a study group for gold mining; and

(b) if so, what is its composition and the areas of its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of Aluminium

2868. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports published in the 'Statesman' of November 22, and 'Midday' of November 30, 1994, relating to the unfair means adopted in the allocation of aluminium from Government plants;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any complaints/representations have been received by Government about the unfair allocation and maldistribution of aluminium; if so, what are the details of such complaints and what corrective and punitive steps have been taken in the matter;

(d) whether there has been any shortage of indigenous aluminium resulting in short and irregular supply of aluminium to the manufacturers of secondary aluminium products;

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to make up the shortage of aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The insertions that appeared in the Statesman in its issue dated 22-11-1994 and in Mid day in its issue dated 30-11-1994 have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (f) Representations have been received by the Government for reduction of the import duty on aluminium because of rising LME prices, domestic availability and its allocation. In order to reduce the cost of the imported aluminium, the Government reduced the import duty on the unwrought metal, waste and scrap from 25% to 10% ad valorem with effect from 18-10-1994. Earlier the Government had reduced the import duty from around 40% to 25% ad valorem in the last budget. Also, free import of the metal is allowed as it is under OGL. Since Government does not exercise any control on pricing of the aluminium or on its distribution, the producers sell their products as per their own commercial judgement. There is, therefore, no question of any direction being issued by Government in this regard.